

REMARKS

By way of the above amendment, claims 73-79, 81-89, 91, 92 and 94 will be pending, and claims 80, 90 and 93 will be canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 93. In this amendment, independent claims 73 and 82 are amended to incorporate claim 93 and its intervening claim 80; claim 83 is amended to incorporate claim 93 and claim 90 which is equivalent to claim 80. The designation "selecting unit" is amended to consistently be recited as "selection unit". Claims 80, 90 and 93 are canceled. Claim 91 has been amended to depend from claim 83 instead of claim 90.

In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 73, 82 and 93 are allowable.

Objections

Claim 77 is objected to. The examiner requires changing "words and the phrases" to --words or the phrases--, on page 4 of the previous office action. Claim 77 is amended as required by the examiner.

Claim 80 is objected to. The examiner objects to the phrase "is configured to select" and requires the phrase to be changed to --selects--. This phrase has been revised, insofar as claim 80 is incorporated into independent claims 73 and 82.

Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objections.

35 USC 101 Rejection, 35 USC 112(1) Rejection,

Claim 82 is rejected under 35 USC 101 and 35 USC 112(1) due to its preamble. The examiner recommends amending the claim to recite --A computer readable memory medium storing a computer program that is executed by a computer system to implement ...-- in order to

overcome both of these rejections. Claim 82 has been amended as recommended by the examiner. The applicants respectfully request the examiner to withdraw both rejections.

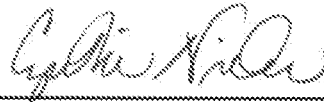
35 USC 103(a) Rejection

Independent claims 73, 82, and 83 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) in view of various references. By way of the above amendment, claims 73, 82 and 83 are amended to recite subject matter which the examiner indicates is allowable. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is believed to be moot.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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